June 23, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We commend you for your efforts to bring about a ceasefire that halted the recent terrible hostilities between Israel and Hamas. This outbreak of violence was a painful reminder that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has no military solution and can only be resolved through diplomacy and a negotiated two-state solution that guarantees the civil and political rights, safety, and self-determination of both peoples.

Toward that end, we urge you to reverse the previous administration’s abandonment of longstanding, bipartisan United States policy. We welcome your administration’s initial release of development and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians, as well as its inclusion in your FY2022 budget request. In addition, we encourage you to undertake the following steps to align United States policy with your call for supporting our ally Israel and ensuring equal measures of freedom, dignity, security and prosperity for Israelis and Palestinians:

- Formally withdraw the previous administration’s “peace plan” which paved the way for possible unilateral annexation of territory and reaffirm as official United States policy the principles for resolving the conflict referenced by the House of Representatives in H. Res. 326 (116th Congress);
- Insist through all channels that Hamas stop further rocket attacks against Israel;
- Quickly fulfill your welcome commitment to reopen a separate U.S. consulate in Jerusalem;
- Make clear that the United States considers settlements to be inconsistent with international law by reissuing relevant State Department and U.S. customs guidance to that effect;
- Strongly oppose the forced expulsion via eviction of Palestinian families from their homes in East Jerusalem and throughout Palestinian territory;
- Ensure that all relevant official U.S. documents and communications once again consistently refer to the status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip as occupied;
- Ensure that all remaining congressionally appropriated aid to the Palestinians is disbursed without undue delay, following all applicable U.S. laws and vetting standards for recipients and implementing organizations, and;
- Consistently and proactively issue firm public condemnations of specific actions that violate the rights of either party or undermine the prospects for peace.

While there are additional steps that both parties to the conflict can and must take to preserve the possibility of one day reaching a two-state solution, we believe the first step for the United
States must be to urgently restore American policy positions conducive to the prospects for peace. We look forward to supporting you in that effort.

Sincerely,

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

David E. Price
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Andy Levin
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress
Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress

Katie Porter  
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

Marie Newman  
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

Mondaire Jones  
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress
Jesús G. “Chuy” García  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress